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Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

STATEMENT OF NEED

Washington has the opportunity to join reciprocal program with other state to promote compliance with laws and regulations governing hunting and fishing in all party states.

The reciprocal program is designed to do two things. First, it allows party states to recognize hunting and fishing license suspensions and revocations of each state. Currently, revoked violators who wish to continue hunting or fishing can easily travel to nearby states where they can purchase licenses and continue to hunt and fish.

A hunter or angler in Washington is subject to revocation of license privileges for certain violations involving big game, hunting accidents, and repeated violations over a ten year period. License privileges over 250 violators are revoked per year.

Second, it allows out-of-state violators to proceed on their way without posting a bond or facing an immediate court appearance by providing an incentive in the home state to encourage compliance/ Failure of an out of state

hunter or angler to completely dispose of a violation in-state will result in their license privileges being suspended in their home state. Once the out-of-state violation is taken care of, their home state license privileges are reinstated.

The following states have adopted wildlife violator legislation: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

This bill would provide for three improvements on current conditions:

It creates an interstate compact which allows for and encourages interstate sharing of violation information. It provides for reporting of convictions of wildlife violations to party states maximizing interstate cooperation, use of law enforcement personnel and assistance to courts.

It would provide for reciprocal interstate revocation of hunting, fishing, and trapping license when appropriate.

It would allow member states to issue a citation to non-resident

violators from member states without the need for immediate court appearance, bail posting, or incarceration. Violators could accept a citation from the issuing state and continue on the violator's way without delay whether or not the person is a resident in the state which the citation was issued.



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